

**Feasibility of utilising ASCOT to assess resident quality of life
during infectious disease outbreaks in care homes**

Online survey

**A survey for staff who have a professional role in supporting care
homes to prevent and manage infectious outbreaks.**

The study is being undertaken by the University of East Anglia (UEA) and University of Kent and is funded by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

The purpose of this study is to extend our awareness and understanding of how you think living with an infectious outbreak may affect resident's quality of life. What particular changes to routine may affect this, and whether we are able to identify the effects to minimise any impacts.

There are two ways you can take part in this study:

- (i) Completing this short survey
- (ii) Participating in an interview or workshop. Details about how to take part in an interview or workshop are at the end.

To take part in the survey, please read the information, tick the box to say that you have done this and that you are eligible, then complete the questions. There are four questions, and it will take about 10 minutes to complete.

1. Why have I been chosen to take part?

You are being invited to take part because you have professional role in supporting care homes managing infectious outbreaks.

2. Do I have to take part?

No, you do not have to take part in this study, please only take part if you would like to. You can leave the survey at any time, just close your browser – your answers won't be saved until you press the final 'submit' button.

3. What happens if I do take part?

You are being invited to take part in a survey, which will take about 10 minutes of your time. There are just four questions, there is no 'right' or 'wrong', we would just like to know what you think, and your answers are anonymous. If you would like to take part in an interview or workshop, please provide your contact details at the end.

4. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There are no direct health benefits to you as a result of taking part in the study. However, we think that the findings from this study could be useful in helping care homes and infection control teams to adapt infection control measures to minimise any possible negative effects on resident's quality of life.

5. Will my participation be kept confidential?

All information collected during the study will remain confidential. Your survey answers are anonymous, and you will be given a unique identification number by the study team. If you provide us with your contact details at the end, your answers to this survey will still remain anonymous. All the information from the survey responses will be combined and analysed together, so you will not be identified in any way. When we report our findings, they will be fully anonymised, and it will not be possible to link back to any particular person.

With your permission, some of the anonymised data may be shared with other researchers at UEA or University of Kent, to help them with other studies that might benefit others, or used to answer additional research questions, but no information that might identify you, or the place where you work, will be shared with anyone outside the research team.

We will ensure that information gathered is managed and stored in accordance with UEA policies which are in line with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR). Electronic data will be stored on secure servers and password-protected.

6. What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of the study will be reported to the UKHSA, published in healthcare journals with open access and presented at healthcare conferences in the UK and possibly other countries. We will also share anonymised findings with care homes and health professionals. A summary of the results will be provided on our websites.

7. Are there any risks in taking part?

You are not likely to come to any harm by taking part but if anything does upset you or raises questions for you, please contact the lead researcher, Dr Diane Bunn (d.bunn@uea.ac.uk). Alternatively, you may find it helpful to talk to a colleague, friend or family member, your General Practitioner or the Samaritans offer a free Wellbeing Support Line for Health and Social Care Staff: 0800 069 6222.

8. Who is funding and organising this research?

This study is funded by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA, [UK Health Security Agency – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)). It is being hosted by the University of East Anglia (UEA) in collaboration with University of Kent. UEA is the sponsoring organisation.

9. Who has approved this study?

This study has been reviewed and approved by the UEA's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

10. Who can I contact if I have further questions or would like to take part?

Further details of this study can be found on our university websites.

University of East Anglia: [Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit \(ASCOT\) – About \(uea.ac.uk\)](#).

University of Kent: [Feasibility of utilising ASCOT to assess resident Quality of Life \(QoL\) during infectious disease outbreaks – CHSS / Centre for Health Services Studies \(kent.ac.uk\)](#)

You can contact one of the members of the research team:

University of East Anglia:

Diane Bunn, d.bunn@uea.ac.uk; telephone: 01603 591966

University of Kent:

Wenjing Zhang, email: w.j.zhang@kent.ac.uk; telephone: 01227 816896

Nick Smith, email: n.j.smith@kent.ac.uk; telephone: : 07969 487324

11. What if I am unhappy or if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to contact the lead researcher Dr Diane Bunn on 01603 591966, or email: d.bunn@uea.ac.uk and she will try to help. If you remain unhappy or have a concern which you feel you cannot discuss with the research team with, then please contact Professor Kenda Crozier (k.crozier@uea.ac.uk), Dean of Health Sciences, UEA, who is external to the research team.

12. What do I do now?

Please complete the online consent form, the survey questions and indicate if you wish to be invited to an interview ([link to online survey here](#)).

Thank you for reading this Participant Information Sheet.

QR Code for UEA ASCOT Study Website:



QR code for survey & consent form:

